(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intend to put in place any alternative system for sale of coal, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The average e-auction price of coal sold through e-marketing by CIL during the year 2006-07 (upto July, 2006), has shown a declining trend. The reasons for decline could be attributed to factors like gradual maturity of the market, stabilisation of prices due to removal of fear of scarcity of coal, substantial increase in supply of coal through e-marketing etc.

(c) Government has no intention at present to introduce any alternate system in place of e-marketing.

Fly ash from thermal power plants

†2881. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether fly ash emitting from thermal power plants is being used in coal mines in Orissa;

(b) whether this experiment has been successful;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider using the fly ash emitting from thermal power plants in other coal mines also; and

(d) if so, by when a decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ash dumping in mine voids has been successfully commenced recently. Several mine voids in subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have been identified for dumping of fly ash from nearby power plants.

Coal production and gap between demand and supply

2882. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal in the country both by Coal India Ltd. and other captive mines;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the present demands of coal in the country; and

(c) the details of Government programme to fill up the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The total production of Coal in the country by Coal India Limited and other Captive mines during the year 2005-06 was 343.372 million tonnes and 27.486 Million tonnes respectively (Provisional). In addition, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. also produced 36.138 million tonnes of coal during 2005-06 (Provisional).

(b) and (c) As per Annual Plan, 2006-07, the estimated raw coal demand during current year would be 474.18 million tonnes. This is planned to be met from domestic supply of 432.39 million tonnes and gap of 41.79 million tonnes will have to be met by imports of 24.19 million tonnes of coking coal for steel sector and 17.60 million tonnes of non-coking coal for power, cement and other sectors.

Import of coal

†2883. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal import in the country is expected to be doubled from the year 2001-02 to 2006-07;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether the domestic production of coal has also increased during the said periods; and

(d) if so, the percentage of this increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The Coal supply projection made by Planning Commission during the year 2006-07 estimates import of coal to the tune of 41.79 million tonnes, which is almost double of the coal imported during the year 2001-02.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given at (a) above.

(c) and (d) Domestic production of coal has also increased during the said period. The coal produced through indigenous sources during the year 2001-02 was 327.787 million tonnes and the projected production of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.